

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6595

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, PFOR, LE, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ABU JAAFAR, DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS,
PLO AT 1030 ON JULY 25

REF: BEIRUT 6590

1. FOLLOWING IS MEMCON OF MEETING TODAY BETWEEN RSO AND PLO SECURITY OFFICIAL.
2. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EVACUATION BY BOAT FROM BAIN MILITAIRE ON JULY 27. MAJOR AHMED (FATAH) ATTENDED THE MEETING AND, AS SUSPECTED, HE WILL BE IN CHARGE OF SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE EVACUATION. THE FOLLOWING POINTS WERE COVERED:
 - A. COL. HUNT, MILITARY ATTACHE, WILL BE PROVIDED LIAISON IN ORDER TO BEGIN RADIO CONTACT WITH EVACUATION SHIPS FROM BAIN MILITAIRE AT 0530. THE PLO ALSO AUTHORIZED THE USE OF RADIOS BETWEEN BAIN MILITAIRE, THE HOTEL AND THE EMBASSY.
 - ZB. THE PLO WILL UNDERTAKE TO INFORM ALL FACTIONS AND FACTIONAL LEADERSHIP IN THE AREA CONCERNED ALONG THE CORNICHE BY HAND-CARRIED NOTIFICATION WHICH THESE LEADERS ARE EXPECTED TO SIGN. THIS NOTIFICATION, WHEN SIGNED, WILL BE AN AGREEMENT BY THESE FACTION LEADERS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE EVACUATION.
 - C. THE PLO WILL EVACUATE ALL MILITARY POSITIONS WITHIN THIS AREA OR, IN THE CASE OF THOSE POSITIONS WHICH CANNOT BE EVACUATED, THEY WILL STATION PLO SOLDIERS TO PROVIDE SECURITY.
 - D. THE PPLO WILL TAKE SPECIAL CARE TO INFORM THE LAA

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TANK LOCATED IP FRONT OF THE CHANCERY AND THE SECOND TANK

POSITIONED AT THE AUB TOWER TO INSURE THAT THEY WILL NOT INTERFERE.

E. THE PLO HAS NO PROBLEM WITH MORE THAN ONE BOAT.

HOWEVER, THEY DID STRESS THEIR DESIRE THAT THE BOATS MOVE IN AND OUT QUICKLY AND STRESSED THEIR DESIRE FOR SPEED IN ALL PHASES OF THE OPERATION.

F. THE PLO HAS REQUESTED THAT ALL EMBASSY LABORERS WHO WILL WORK WITHIN THE BAIN MILITAIRE AREA DISPLAY UPON THEIR PERSON SOME TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION, SUCH AS AN ARMBAND OR BADGE, AND THAT THE PLO BE GIVEN A SAMPLE OF THIS BADGE BEFOREHAND..

G. THE PLO HAS ALSO REQUESTED THAT SOME FORM OF MARKING BE APPLIED TO ALL LUGGAGE BEING LOADED ON BOARD THE SHIP. SPECIFICALLY, THEY WISH TO INSURE FOR SECURITY REASONS THAT NO UNAUTHORIZED BAGGAGE IS PUT UPON THE SHIP. THEY FURTHER REQUEST THAT THEY BE GIVEN A SAMPLE OF THIS LUGGAGE IDENTIFICATION BEFOREHAND.

H. THE PLO ANTICIPATES NO DIFFICULTY IN HAVING FSO LANE ARRIVE ON THE FIRST BOAT. THEY WILL UNDERTAKE TO NOTIFY THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES AND INSURE THAT A LEBANESE IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL IS ON HAND TO PROVIDE LANE WITH A VISA AT DOCKSIDE.

I. CONCERNING THE ATO SUPPLIES WHICH MAY BE INCLUDED ON THE FIRST BOAT, THE PLO WILL INSURE THAT LEBANESE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARE ON HAND TO PROCESS THIS MATERIAL INTO LEBANON. THEY HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE FULL DETAILS REGARDING THE NUMBER OF PACKAGES, WEIGHT AND DESCRIPTION OF THIS MATERIAL BE PROVIDED TO THEM BY 1000 ON JULY 26.

J. THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING THE PRESS WERE DISCUSSED AND IT WAS AGREED THAT A PREDESSIGNATED POINT WOULD BE SELECTED TO PROVIDE A SECURE LOCATION FOR BOTH THE WRITING AND PHOTO PRESS. THE SPECIFIC DETAILS OF WHERE THE PRESS POINT WOULD BE LOCATED WILL BE DISCUSSED DURING THE 1000 MONDAY MEETING. PAO ROSS WILL PROVIDE SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR THIS SUBJECT.

K. THE PLO WILL BEGIN TO SECURE THE EVACUATION AREA AT 1500 ON SUNDAY, JULY 25.

L. THE PLO QUESTIONED WHETHER THE EMBASSY HAD A DOCTOR ON ITS STAFF. WHEN I REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, THEY STATED THEY WOULD PROVIDE A DOCTOR AND AMBULANCE FOR ANY EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE REQUIRED.

M. SUMMARY: THE PLO SEEMED TO HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH ANY OF THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED AND THE ONLY POINT THAT THEY CONFIDENTIAL

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REPEATEDLY STRESSED WAS THAT ALL OPERATIONS BE CONDUCTED AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. IT IS THEIR HOPE THAT THE ENTIRE OPERATION CAN BE COMPLETED IN TWO HOURS FROM THE TIME OF THE FIRST BOAT'S LANDING AT 0900. A MEETING TOMORROW AT 1000 WAS AGREED UPON TO DISCUSS ANY FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE EVACUATION.

2. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS THIS MESSAGE TO CONCERNED MILITARY COMMANDS.

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